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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

United States of America,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
vs.  
  
Stephen Folson,  
  
Defendant.

CR 21-2664-TUC-CKJ (LAB)

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America and the defendant agree to the following disposition of this matter:

**PLEA**

1. The defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment, which charges the defendant with a violation of Title 18 §§ 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2), Possession of Child Pornography. Count Two of the Indictment will be dismissed at the time of sentencing.

**TERMS**

2. The defendant understands that this guilty plea is conditioned upon the following terms, stipulations, and requirements:

**Maximum Penalties**

A. A violation of Title 18, United States Code Sections 2252(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2), is punishable by a maximum term of 20 years imprisonment, as well as a maximum fine of \$250,000, and a term of lifetime supervised release under §§ 5D1.1 and 1.2 of the Sentencing Guidelines and Title 1, Section 101 of the PROTECT Act.

B. According to the United States Sentencing Guidelines (U.S.S.G.) issued pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the Court shall:

- (1) Order the defendant to pay a fine pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3572 and 3553, unless the Court finds that a fine is not appropriate; and
- (2) Order the defendant to serve a term of supervised release when required by statute or when a sentence of imprisonment of more than one year is imposed, and may impose a term of supervised release in all other cases.

C. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013(a)(2)(A), the Court is required to order the defendant to pay a \$100 special assessment per count of conviction.

D. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3014 (a)(3), the Court is required to impose an additional mandatory special assessment of \$5000 for each count of conviction on any person convicted of an offense under Chapter 110 (Sexual Exploitation and Other Abuse of Children), unless the defendant is indigent.

E. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3561, et seq., at the sole discretion of the Court, and even if probation is available, the defendant instead may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

3. The government reserves the right to revoke this agreement if, prior to the sentencing in this matter, the government discovers evidence of the defendant's commission of any child sexual abuse crimes or violent felonies other than those known at the time this offer is entered, as detailed in the pre-trial services report and disclosure in this matter. Further, this plea agreement pertains only to the specific criminal activity that is charged and detailed in the Information in this matter, and does not preclude a further

1 federal or state prosecution of the defendant for any additional criminal activity which may  
2 be discovered in any further or future investigation, including but not limited to federal or  
3 state criminal charges for any other federal or state criminal charges relating to sexual abuse  
4 or exploitation of a minor.

5 **Agreements Regarding Sentence**

6 4. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C), the defendant and the government  
7 agree to a binding sentencing range of **102-120 months**, with the sentence of imprisonment  
8 to be followed by **lifetime Supervised Release**, with conditions set out below. The  
9 agreement is contingent upon defendant being in Criminal History Category I. Either party  
10 may withdraw from the agreement in the event the defendant is sentenced outside of the  
11 above range. The parties agree that the sentence imposed in case 21-CR-0545-001-TUC-  
12 CKJ (LAB) will be served concurrently to the sentence imposed in this case. The parties  
13 agree that the Court may grant a variance pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in order to arrive  
14 at the range stated above.

15 5. In addition, the defendant shall register as a sex offender pursuant to Arizona  
16 Revised Statutes § 13-3821 prior to his release from confinement. The defendant  
17 acknowledges that he has been advised and understands that under the Sex Offender  
18 Registration and Notification Act, a federal law, the defendant must register and keep the  
19 registration current in each of the following jurisdictions: the location of the defendant's  
20 residence, the location of the defendant's employment; and, if the defendant is a student,  
21 the location of the defendant's school; and for purposes of initial registration, the defendant  
22 understands that he must also register in the jurisdiction in which convicted if such  
23 jurisdiction is different from the jurisdiction of residence. Registration will require that the  
24 defendant provide information that includes name, residence address, and the names and  
25 addresses of any places at which the defendant is or will be an employee or a student,  
26 amongst other information, as outlined in ARS § 13-3821 and 42 U.S.C. § 16914. The  
27 defendant understands that he must update his registrations not later than three business  
28 days after any change of name, residence, employment, or student status and provide

1 current information for the full registration period as set out in ARS § 13-3821 and 42  
2 U.S.C. § 16915. The defendant understands that failure to comply with these obligations  
3 subjects the defendant to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, 18 U.S.C. §  
4 2250, which is punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both.

5 6. If the Court, after reviewing this plea agreement, concludes that any  
6 provision is inappropriate, it may reject the plea agreement under Rule 11(c)(5), Fed. R.  
7 Crim. P., giving the defendant, in accordance with Rule 11(d)(2)(A), Fed. R. Crim. P., an  
8 opportunity to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea.

9 7. The defendant agrees to the entry of an order imposing a special assessment  
10 of \$5000.00 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3014 (a)(3). Defendant further agrees to grant the  
11 United States a wage assignment, liquidate assets, or complete any other tasks which will  
12 result in immediate payment in full, or payment in the shortest time in which full payment  
13 can be reasonably made as required under 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d). The defendant understands  
14 that the special assessment will be included in the Court's Order of Judgment.

15 **Agreements Regarding Restitution**

16 8. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2259 and 3663, Defendant agrees to the entry of a  
17 Restitution Order in the amount of \$3,000.00 for each victim who is identified in images  
18 contained on any of the defendant's electronic devices and submits a claim for restitution  
19 based on damages.

20 9. The defendant further agrees that he will not seek the discharge of any  
21 restitution obligation, in whole or in part, in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.  
22 The defendant further agrees to grant the United States a wage assignment, liquidate assets,  
23 or complete any other tasks which will result in immediate payment in full, or payment in  
24 the shortest time in which full payment can be reasonably made as required under 18 U.S.C.  
25 § 3572(d). The defendant understands that such restitution will be included in the Court's  
26 Order of Judgment and that an unanticipated restitution amount will not serve as grounds  
27 to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea or to withdraw from this plea agreement.  
28

**Assets and Financial Responsibility**

10. a. The defendant shall (i) make a full accounting of all assets, including real and personal property in which the defendant has any legal or equitable interest; (ii) permit the U.S. Attorney's office to immediately obtain the defendant's credit reports in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation that is or might be imposed by the court; (iii) make full disclosure of all current and projected assets to the U.S. Probation Office immediately and prior to the termination of the defendant's supervised release or probation, such disclosures to be shared with the U.S. Attorney's Office, including the Financial Litigation Unit, for any purpose [as well as the financial condition of all household members (including but not limited to that of a spouse or child)]; (iv) cooperate fully with the government and the Probation Officer to execute such documentation as may be necessary to secure assets to be applied to restitution owed by the defendant. The defendant agrees to permit the Probation Officer to provide to the U.S. Attorney's office copies of any and all financial information provided by the defendant to the U.S. Probation Office; and (v) not (and shall not aid and abet any other party to) sell, hide, waste, spend, destroy, transfer or otherwise devalue any such assets or property before sentencing, without the prior approval of the United States (provided, however, that no prior approval will be required for routine, day-to-day expenditures).

b. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3613, the defendant agrees that all financial obligations imposed by the court, including restitution, shall be due immediately upon judgment, shall be subject to immediate enforcement by the government, and shall be submitted to the Treasury Offset Program so that any federal payment or transfer of returned property defendant receives may be offset and applied to federal debts (which offset will not affect any periodic payment schedule). If the defendant is incarcerated, the defendant agrees to participate in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program pursuant to a payment schedule to be determined by the court. The defendant understands that any schedules of payments imposed by the court, including schedules imposed while the defendant is incarcerated or on supervised release, are merely minimum

1 schedules of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available  
2 to the government to enforce the judgment.

3 **Conditions of Supervised Release**

4 11. The government reserves the right to withdraw from the plea agreement if  
5 the sentence does not include **lifetime supervised release**, with the conditions that follow.  
6 Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

7 a. The defendant consents to search of person and any property, vehicle,  
8 business, and residence to be conducted in a reasonable manner and at a reasonable time  
9 by, or at the direction, of the probation officer. This consent includes the search and seizure  
10 of all computers, computer related devices, and the peripheral equipment, all data and/or  
11 images stored on hard disks and/or any other storage media whether installed within a  
12 device or removable and separate from the actual computer device. Upon reasonable  
13 suspicion concerning a violation of a condition of supervised release or unlawful conduct  
14 by the defendant by any probation officer in the lawful discharge of the officer's  
15 supervision functions, the above mentioned search can occur at any time and be  
16 accomplished by any law enforcement in coordination with a probation officer.

17 b. The defendant shall participate in a program as approved by the United States  
18 Probation Office for the treatment and monitoring of sex offenders, including a requirement  
19 that he submit to risk assessment including physiological testing which may include but is  
20 not limited to the ABEL Arousal/Screen, and periodic polygraph. The defendant shall  
21 contribute to the cost of treatment in an amount to be determined by the probation officer.  
22 Sex offender assessment and treatment is to be conducted by a therapist(s) approved by the  
23 Probation Office, who will release all reports to the Supervising Officer.

24 c. The defendant shall participate in a mental health program as directed by the  
25 probation officer, which may include inpatient treatment and taking prescribed medication  
26 (to include anti-psychotic medication if the requisite findings are made). The defendant  
27 shall contribute to the cost of treatment in an amount to be determined by the probation  
28 officer. Further, the Supervising Officer may disclose the Pre-Sentence Report and/or

1 previous mental health evaluations and reports to the mental health provider. The mental  
2 health provider may provide information, excluding the Pre-Sentence Report, to state or  
3 local agencies for the purpose of defendant's rehabilitation.

4 d. The defendant shall not possess any materials containing sexually explicit  
5 conduct as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2), or patronize any place whose primary function  
6 is to sell, rent, display, show or provide material depicting sexually explicit conduct in any  
7 format. This includes use of the telephone for purposes of engaging in conversation  
8 concerning sexually explicit conduct, and also prohibits the defendant from obtaining the  
9 services of a prostitute.

10 e. The defendant shall not have contact with any child under the age of 18  
11 without prior written permission of the probation officer and shall report immediately but  
12 not later than eight (8) hours to the Supervising Officer/Designee any unauthorized contact  
13 with any child. Contact includes, but is not limited to, phone calls, letters, electronic  
14 communications such as voicemails, texts and e-mails, or communication through a third  
15 party.

16 f. The defendant shall maintain an appropriate appearance at all times which  
17 includes the wearing of undergarments and appropriate outer clothing in places where  
18 others might be present, including the home.

19 g. The defendant shall not contact the victims or the victims' families, and the  
20 probation officer will verify compliance. The defendant also shall not enter the premises  
21 of any victim, loiter near where any victims reside or have direct or indirect contact with  
22 any victims of his crime, except under circumstances approved in advance and in writing  
23 by the probation officer. The defendant shall immediately report any such contact to the  
24 probation officer. This prohibition against contact with victims, direct or indirect, shall  
25 apply during the defendant's incarceration as well as during supervised release.

26 h. The victims and/or their parents or guardians may have access to information  
27 related to the defendant's custody, release, residence, and whereabouts, throughout the  
28 defendant's period of supervision.

1           i.     The defendant shall reside in a residence approved of in advance by the  
2 probation officer.

3           j.     The defendant is restricted from engaging in any occupation, business, or  
4 profession that causes him to regularly be in contact with persons under the age of 18  
5 without prior approval of the probation officer in writing. Further, the defendant shall not  
6 affiliate with, own, control or be employed in any capacity by any business whose principal  
7 product is the production or selling of materials depicting or describing “sexually explicit  
8 conduct” as defined at 18 USC § 2256(2).

9           k.     When volunteering for any activities, the defendant shall advise such  
10 organization of his conviction.

11          l.     The defendant shall not frequent or loiter within one hundred feet of  
12 schoolyards, parks, public swimming pools, playgrounds, youth centers, video arcade  
13 facilities, or other places primarily used by children under the age of 18.

14          m.     The defendant shall not date or socialize with anybody who has children  
15 under the age of 18 without prior permission of the probation officer. The defendant shall  
16 notify the probation officer immediately of the name, date of birth and contact information  
17 for any individuals with whom he has an intimate and/or romantic and/or sexual and close  
18 emotional relationship.

19          n.     The defendant shall not reside with any child under the age of 18 without  
20 prior written approval of the probation officer. Depending on the outcome of the  
21 psychosexual evaluation, the defendant may be allowed supervised visits with his own  
22 children.

23          o.     The defendant shall not possess or use a computer or other internet-capable  
24 device, including a “smartphone,” with access to the internet or any on-line computer  
25 service at any location (including place of employment, educational facility or retail  
26 establishments) without the prior written approval of the probation officer. This includes  
27 any Internet Service provider, electronic bulletin board system, internet relay chat channel,  
28 DCC chat, VPN, instant messaging, newsgroup, usegroup, peer-to-peer file sharing



1 program, any site based e-mail which provides some measure of anonymity (e.g., Hotmail,  
2 Gmail, Yahoo email), or any other public or private network or e-mail system. Further, at  
3 any approved residence where the defendant is ultimately permitted to reside upon his  
4 release from incarceration, including any Community Corrections Center, the probation  
5 officer will verify that there is either no computer with internet access at that residence, or  
6 that the owner of any such computer has consented to having internet monitoring software  
7 installed on such computer.

8 p. If computer use is authorized in writing by the Supervising Officer, the  
9 defendant consents to the installation of search and/or monitoring software and/or hardware  
10 including unannounced seizure for the purpose of search, at his own expense. The  
11 defendant has no expectation of privacy regarding computer use or information stored on  
12 the computer if monitoring software is installed and understands and agrees that  
13 information gathered by said monitoring software may be used against him in subsequent  
14 court actions regarding his computer use and conditions of probation. Defendant further  
15 agrees that he is fully responsible for all material, data, images and information found on  
16 his computer at all times.

17 q. If computer use is authorized in writing by the Supervising Officer,  
18 defendant understands and agrees:

19 (1) Use of the computer for any purpose which might further sexual  
20 activity is strictly prohibited. Such use includes, but is not limited to, possession of  
21 sexually explicit material in any form; sexually related chat or email exchange; visiting or  
22 joining chat rooms which contain sexually explicit material on web sites; websites that  
23 contain nudity or sexually explicit materials; downloading files, digital images (in any  
24 format), text files, or multi-media material that is sexual in nature; or visiting and/or  
25 subscribing to usergroups, newsgroups, or list services which contain sexual content.

26 (2) The defendant shall be prohibited from using any form of encryption,  
27 cryptography, steganography, compression, password protected files, anonymizing  
28 software, virtual private networks, and/or other methods that might limit access to, or

1 change the appearance of, data and/or images, without prior written approval from the  
2 Supervising Officer/Designee. If, for work purposes, password protection is required on  
3 any system or files used by defendant, that defendant will provide the password  
4 immediately or upon receipt to Supervising Officer/Designee. The defendant will keep  
5 any and all passwords that have been approved by Supervising Officer/Designee current  
6 and make immediate notifications should any of the passwords change.

7 (3) The defendant shall be prohibited from altering or destroying records  
8 of computer use, or preventing the creation of such records, without the prior written  
9 authorization of the Supervising Officer/Designee. This includes, but is not limited to,  
10 deleting or removing browser history data regardless of its age, the possession of software  
11 or items designed to boot into RAM kernels, alter or wipe computer media, defeat forensic  
12 software, or block monitoring software. This also includes a prohibition against restoring  
13 a computer to a previous state or the reinstallation of operating systems.

14 (4) The defendant will provide the Supervising Officer/Designee with a  
15 current list of all computer and computer related equipment used by him, including backup  
16 systems, and will keep this list current.

17 (5) The defendant shall not utilize, by any means, any social networking  
18 or social media forums offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends; personal  
19 profiles; blogs; chat rooms; or other online environments which allow for interaction with  
20 others, without prior written permission from the probation officer.

21 r. Upon release from incarceration, the defendant shall reside and actively  
22 participate in a Residential Re-entry Center for up to one year or until discharged by the  
23 Supervising Officer. This placement is to facilitate the defendant's transition into the  
24 community and to facilitate treatment for sexual deviance.

25 s. The defendant shall not own, use or have access to the services of any  
26 commercial mail receiving agency, nor shall he open or maintain a post office box without  
27 the prior written approval of the Supervising Probation Officer.

28 **Plea Addendum**

1           12. This written plea agreement, and any written addenda filed as attachments to  
2 this plea agreement, contain all the terms and conditions of the plea. Any additional  
3 agreements, if any such agreements exist, shall be recorded in a separate document and  
4 may be filed with the Court under seal. Accordingly, additional agreements, if any, may  
5 not be in the public record.

6                           **Waiver of Defenses and Appeal Rights**

7           13. The defendant waives any and all motions, defenses, probable cause  
8 determinations, and objections that which the defendant could assert to the information or  
9 indictment, or to the petition to revoke, or to the Court's entry of judgment against the  
10 defendant and imposition of sentence upon the defendant providing the sentence is  
11 consistent with this agreement. The sentence is in accordance with this agreement if the  
12 sentence imposed is within the stipulated range. The defendant further waives: (1) any right  
13 to appeal the Court's entry of judgment against defendant; (2) any right to appeal the  
14 imposition of sentence upon defendant under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 (sentence appeals); (3) any  
15 right to appeal the district court's refusal to grant a requested variance; (4) any right to  
16 collaterally attack defendant's conviction and sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, or any other  
17 collateral attack; (5) any right to file a motion for modification of sentence, including under  
18 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c) (except for the right to file a compassionate release motion under 18  
19 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) and to appeal the denial of such a motion) and 3583(e)(early  
20 termination of supervised release), and any other challenge to the defendant's conviction  
21 or sentence; and (6) the right to a restitution schedule set by the Court for payment of  
22 restitution during any period of incarceration.. The defendant acknowledges that this  
23 waiver shall result in the dismissal of any appeal or collateral attack the defendant might  
24 file challenging his/her conviction or sentence in this case. If the defendant files a notice  
25 of appeal or a habeas petition, notwithstanding this agreement, defendant agrees that this  
26 case shall, upon motion of the government, be remanded to the district court to determine  
27 whether defendant is in breach of this agreement and, if so, to permit the government to  
28 withdraw from the plea agreement. This waiver shall not be construed to bar an otherwise-

1 preserved claim of ineffective assistance of counsel or of “prosecutorial misconduct” (as  
2 that term is defined by Section II.B of Ariz. Ethics Op. 15-01 (2015)).

3 **Psychosexual Assessment**

4 14. The defendant agrees to submit to a psychosexual assessment prior to  
5 sentencing in this case, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3552(b). This assessment shall include but  
6 shall not be limited to physiological testing, including a polygraph, as directed by the  
7 Probation Department. The assessment shall be performed as determined by Probation, or  
8 by such other provider as may be approved of in writing and in advance by the Probation  
9 Department, provided that the provider is ATSA-certified, and shall be performed in  
10 accordance with the provider’s standards and practice. All reports and information from  
11 this assessment shall be released to the Probation Department. The defendant agrees to  
12 contribute to the cost of this assessment in an amount to be determined by the Probation  
13 Department after the Probation Department has reviewed all financial and other  
14 information obtained in connection with the presentence investigation in this case. The  
15 defendant agrees to continue the sentencing date in this case until such assessment is  
16 performed and the results of such assessment are provided to the Probation Department. A  
17 form of motion and order for the assessment is attached to the plea agreement and will be  
18 filed in court by the government at the time of the entry of the guilty plea in this case.

19 15. With respect to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the defendant  
20 understands that they are advisory and must be consulted by the District Court at  
21 sentencing. Regardless, the defendant is waiving his right to appeal.

22 **Reinstitution of Prosecution**

23 16. If the defendant’s guilty plea is rejected, withdrawn, vacated, or reversed by  
24 any court in a later proceeding, the government will be free to prosecute the defendant for  
25 all charges as to which it has knowledge, and any charges that have been dismissed because  
26 of this plea agreement will be automatically reinstated. In such event, defendant waives  
27 any objections, motions, or defenses based upon the Speedy Trial Act or the Sixth  
28 Amendment to the Constitution as to the delay occasioned by the later proceedings.

**Perjury and Other Offenses**

17. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to protect the defendant in any way from prosecution for perjury, false declaration or false statement, obstruction of justice, or any other offense committed by the defendant after the date of this agreement. Any information, statements, documents, or evidence the defendant provides to the United States pursuant to this agreement, or to the Court, may be used against the defendant in all such prosecutions.

**Disclosure of Information to U.S. Probation Office**

18. The United States retains the unrestricted right to provide information and make any and all statements it deems appropriate to the Probation Office and to the Court in connection with the case. The defendant understands the government's obligation to provide all information in its file regarding defendant to the Probation Office.

19. The defendant shall cooperate fully with the U.S. Probation Office. Such cooperation shall include providing complete and truthful responses to questions posed by the Probation Office including, but not limited to, questions relating to:

- a. criminal convictions, history of drug abuse and mental illness or conditions which would warrant treatment as part of sentencing; and
- b. financial information, including present financial assets or liabilities that relate to the ability of the defendant to pay a fine and/or restitution.

**Agreement Regarding Property**

20. The defendant agrees to abandon and relinquish any and all right, title and interest he may have in the following items seized from him on March 2, 2021:

- a. One Apple iPhone XR A2105, IMEI 356441103945974;
- b. One Apple Laptop Computer, Serial Number C02PF01TGFWN; and
- c. One Western Digital External HDD, Serial Number WCC4M2DY8PXA.



1           25. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature of the charge to which I am  
2 entering my guilty plea. I have been advised by my attorney of the nature and range of the  
3 possible sentence, and that I will not be able to withdraw my guilty plea if I am dissatisfied  
4 with the sentence the court imposes.

5           26. My guilty plea is not the result of force, threats, assurance or promises other  
6 than the promises contained in this agreement. I agree to the provisions of this agreement  
7 as a voluntary act on my part and I agree to be bound according to its provisions.

8           27. I fully understand that, if I am granted probation or placed on supervised  
9 release by the Court, the terms and conditions of such probation/supervised release are  
10 subject to modification at any time. I further understand that, if I violate any of the  
11 conditions of my probation/supervised release, my probation/supervised release may be  
12 revoked and upon such revocation, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement,  
13 I may be required to serve a term of imprisonment or my sentence may otherwise be altered.

14           28. I agree that this written plea agreement and any addendum, if any, contains  
15 all the terms and conditions of my plea and that promises made by anyone (including my  
16 attorney) that are not contained within this written plea agreement are without force and  
17 effect and are null and void.

18           29. I am satisfied that my defense attorney has represented me in a competent  
19 manner. I have had a full opportunity to discuss all facts and circumstances of this case  
20 with my attorney. I have a clear understanding of the charges and the consequences of this  
21 plea. I am pleading guilty because in truth and in fact I am guilty and for no other reason.

22           30. I am fully capable of understanding the terms and conditions of this plea  
23 agreement. I am not now on or under the influence of any drug, medication, liquor, or  
24 other intoxicant or depressant, which would impair my ability to fully understand the terms  
25 and conditions of this plea agreement.

26           31. The defendant understands that if this case proceeded to trial, the  
27 Government would be required to provide impeachment information relating to any  
28 informants or other witnesses. In addition, if defendant raised an affirmative defense, the



1 Government would be required to provide information in its possession that supports such  
 2 a defense. The defendant acknowledges, however, that by pleading guilty defendant will  
 3 not be provided this information, if any, and the defendant also waives the right to this  
 4 information. Finally, defendant agrees not to attempt to withdraw the guilty plea or to file  
 5 a collateral attack based on the existence of this information.

6 32. This agreement is based on the understanding that the defendant has  
 7 committed no criminal conduct since the defendant's arrest on the present charges, and that  
 8 the defendant will commit no additional criminal conduct before sentencing. If the  
 9 defendant has engaged in or engages in additional criminal conduct during this period, or  
 10 breaches any of the terms of this agreement, the Government will not be bound by the  
 11 recommendations in this agreement, and may recommend any lawful sentence. In addition,  
 12 at its option, the Government may move to set aside the plea.

### 13 **Elements of the Offense**

#### 14 **Possession of Child Pornography**

- 15 1. That the defendant knowingly possessed images which the defendant knew  
 16 contained visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct;
- 17 2. The visual depictions are of minors; and
- 18 3. The visual depictions had been either shipped or transported in interstate or  
 19 foreign commerce by any means, including a computer.

### 20 **Factual Basis**

21 I further agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct in connection  
 22 with the offenses to which I am pleading guilty and that if this matter were to proceed to  
 23 trial the government could prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

24 From a time unknown, until on or about March 1, 2021, I possessed a cellular  
 25 phone with the ability to access the internet: one Apple iPhone XR A2105,  
 26 IMEI 356441103945974. During that time frame, I used this device to  
 27 access, view, and download images and video files depicting child engaging  
 28 in sexually explicit conduct. When this phone was seized on March 2, 2021,  
 there were such files on it. Specifically, the Apple iPhone contained 249  
 images depicting child pornography. During the same time frame, I also  
 possessed an external hard drive: one Western Digital External HDD, Serial



1 Number WCC4M2DY8PX that contained over 1000 images and four (4)  
2 videos depicting child pornography.

3 These files, as well as other files I accessed and viewed over time, contain  
4 images of actual children who were under the age of 18 at the time the images  
5 were created, being sexually abused by adults. Many of the images I viewed  
6 depicted children well under the age of 12, including toddlers. I also  
7 possessed images which depicted children in bondage and/or sadistic conduct  
8 involving children. The images had been mailed, shipped and transported in  
9 interstate or foreign commerce and were also produced using materials that  
10 had been mailed and shipped and transported in interstate and foreign  
11 commerce. I knew these images depicted children engaging in sexually  
12 explicit conduct.

13 IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS TO WHICH I  
14 AGREE, I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FACTS  
15 IN THE "FACTUAL BASIS" PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE TRUE.

16 8/31/2022 /s/ Nicholas Brereton for Stephen Folson with permission  
17 Date STEPHEN FOLSON  
18 Defendant

19 **DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S APPROVAL**

20 I have discussed this case and the plea agreement with my client in detail and have  
21 advised the defendant of all matters within the scope of Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, the  
22 constitutional and other rights of an accused, the factual basis for and the nature of the  
23 offense to which the guilty plea will be entered, possible defenses, the consequences of the  
24 guilty plea (including the maximum statutory sentence possible), and that the defendant is  
25 waiving the right to appeal or otherwise challenge the conviction and sentence. I have  
26 discussed the concept of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines with the defendant. No  
27 assurances, promises, or representations that are not contained in this written agreement  
28 have been given to me or to the defendant by the United States or any of its representatives.  
I have concluded that the entry of the plea as indicated above on the terms and conditions  
set forth in this agreement are in the best interests of my client. I agree to make a bona fide  
effort to ensure that the guilty plea is entered in accordance with all the requirements of  
Fed. R. Crim. P. 11.

26 8/31/2022 /s/ Nicholas Brereton  
27 Date NICHOLAS BRERETON  
28 Attorney for Defendant

**GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL**

I have reviewed this matter and the plea agreement. I agree on behalf of the United States that the terms and conditions set forth are appropriate and are in the best interests of justice.

GARY M. RESTAINO  
United States Attorney  
District of Arizona  
RYAN DEJOE  
Digitally signed by  
RYAN DEJOE  
Date: 2022.08.31  
15:17:48 -07'00'  
RYAN P. DEJOE  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date